

Washington, DC - Working to contribute to the cultural and economic revitalization of downtown Long Beach, Congresswoman Linda Sánchez (CA-39) announced that she has secured \$75,000 in the Fiscal Year 2004 VA-HUD Appropriations bill for the Museum of Latin American Art (MoLAA). This bill is expected to pass the House of Representatives shortly.

Each year the Museum of Latin American Art, located in the City of Long Beach, serves over 52,000 adults and children and is the largest museum in the United States dedicated solely to contemporary Latin American fine art. This funding will be used in the creation of a comprehensive new library resource center and a new museum climate control system.

"I am delighted to have secured \$75,000 to help build a new library resource center in a museum that has such regional and national significance. The project will enhance the public's knowledge of Latin American cultures and contribute to future research and scholarship, and it will be accessible to all residents and visitors of our community," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

The state of the art climate control system will maintain and protect permanent exhibits, while at the same time encourage more loan items for special traveling exhibitions. The comprehensive arts and learning center will encompass all fields of Latin American art, including the visual arts, music, history, and literature.

"When I was growing up there were no museums that catered specifically to my cultural experience as a Mexican-American. The expansion of this museum is important to Latinos everywhere and these funds will further support Latin American art," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.

Currently, the MoLAA houses a significant permanent collection that is representative of the diversity that exists within the realm of Latin American contemporary art. In addition to the museum's dynamic exhibits the MoLAA also participates in community outreach programs that target at-risk youth with school tours, art workshops, summer art camp, and adult education classes.

"Since its foundation six years ago, this museum has played a crucial role in the economic and cultural revitalization of the city. The Museum of Latin American Art is not only important to the City of Long Beach, but also to the increasingly Latino communities of Southern California," said Congresswoman Linda Sánchez.